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ST ISIDORE'S PLOW

for the Catholic farmer

1954 FEAST DAY NOVENA ISSUE

This issue of St. Isidore's Plow is being sent to all the generous devotees of St. Isidore who have acknowledged our recent letter and have sent us their petitions, and let us know their plan to cooperate in the novena.

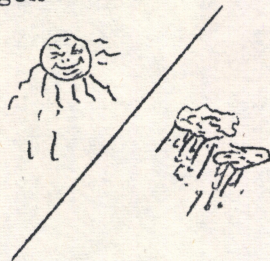


The accompanying prayer list being sent to you with the novena issue of St. Isidore's Plow is printed on blue paper, this being the Marian Year. The prayer of Our Holy Father, Pope Pius XII, in honor of the Marian Year, will be recited during the novena.

Morning and night (or the most convenient time for the entire family) --

The novena prayers are to be said twice daily. We suggest that they be said at times when the entire family can recite them together. Included on the list, is the Prayer for Rain, to be recited according to your own judgment if rain is needed.

Our friends in the state of Washington and Oregon and the people down in Florida, report that they have above the normal amount of moisture. Twenty-three states report they are below normal, but 22 states have had a normal amount of moisture. Because of this wide difference in conditions, we include the prayer for rain, to be used where the need is felt. Others may recite the prayer in behalf of those people who need rain, in the states which are suffering from lack of moisture.



National Shrine of St. Isidore
3801 Grand Avenue
Des Moines 12, Iowa

If our farm boys who are in the service get their novena prayers too late to begin the novena on the 14th of March, we feel sure that they will begin as soon as possible and continue for the nine days, to give honor to St. Isidore. If more people lived as St. Isidore lived, there would be no need for any farm boy to be away from home in the military service. Our servicemen are fighting to bring peace to the world, and many of them are also praying for the peace of Christ.



MARCH 18TH

It is of some significance as we participate in this novena that, at the half way mark, the middle day of the novena, March 18, will be the fifteenth anniversary of the victory parade in Madrid. It was on that day in 1939 that a victory parade was held in the home city of St. Isidore, as the army under General Franco defeated the communists, who had upset the Spanish government, destroyed churches, and murdered religious leaders, in an effort to destroy the strong faith of the Spanish people. Countless prayers to St. Isidore were said by the Spaniards who fought to preserve their holy faith, many of whom died as martyrs, victims of communism. The Spanish nation, which seems rather small to Americans, is the only nation which has defeated the armed forces of communism, and driven them back.

Let us pray for the conversion of Russia!

AMERICAN BASES

Unfortunately, the communistic propaganda spread about the Spanish people remained in the minds of some of our fellow Americans for several years. Recently this has had less influence. Now the U.S. has established air bases in Spain, and some of our American servicemen are on duty there. Perhaps you have a son, brother, or friend on duty in Spain! Or does your neighbor have a friend serving there with the U.S. army forces? If so, be sure to write and tell them of St. Isidore's Shrine in Madrid. Perhaps they will send you a postal card or take a picture of the Shrine to send to you. Make your inquiries now, so that you will be sure that no American farm boy stationed near Madrid will miss the opportunity of kneeling in prayer at the Shrine of the Patron Saint of Farmers, St. Isidore the Farmer, who is your heavenly representative.

ON FARMS

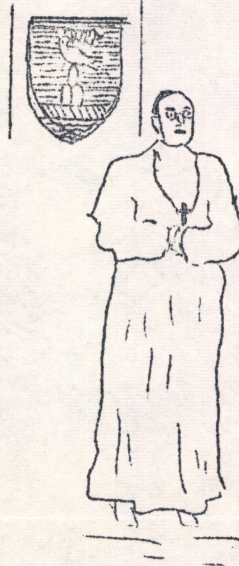
In North Dakota Archbishop Muench and Father Hylden have a special program to encourage the building of shrines of our Blessed Mother, on the farmsteads, during the Marian Year. This program is also being encouraged in many other parts of the United States. In many gardens, and on many farms, flowers which are dedicated to our Blessed Mother Mary are being planted. Two men in Philadelphia have arranged a very fine selection of seeds and have plans for gardens which are especially dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. Information on this matter can be obtained from Mary's Gardens, 901 South 47th St., Philadelphia 43, Pennsylvania.

CHILDREN

Down in New Orleans the Sisters of the Holy Eucharist had an All Saints party for the children, using a shrine of Our Lady, Queen of All Saints, for the background. The children came dressed in robes, or carrying objects such as the saints might have carried. St. Joseph was represented

by a boy who carried some carpenter's tools. Another child brought a tray with a doll's head on it to represent the beheading of St. John the Baptist by King Herod. If this program is used in some of our rural areas, we feel sure that some of the children will be dressing up as St. Isidore the Farmer, carrying a spade or perhaps a goad such as Isidore used when driving oxen.

OUR HOLY FATHER'S FARM



The recent illness of Pope Pius XII has focused our attention on the news bulletin telling of his health. Prayers have been said in many an American farm house for the welfare of Pope Pius XII, who represents Christ here on earth. After prayers, there have been many discussions by American farmers, in their meetings, concerning the Papal Farm at Castel Gandolfo.

This farm is operated to make experiments to improve the agriculture of Italy, and also to supply food to orphanages and to homes for aged people. A special committee of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference members arranged within recent years to send an American tractor to the Pope's farm. Mr. Alba Groves of Viroqua, Wisconsin, demonstrated the tractor for the Holy Father, while Monsignor Hildner of Villa Ridge, Missouri, explained the many purposes for which the tractor could be used.

Livestock from U.S.A.

This same committee also arranged that two Holstein bulls were shipped to improve the Papal Herd. One of these bulls came from the Christoph farm in Chilton, Wisconsin, and the other from the Benedictine Sisters' farm in Clyde, Missouri. Egg production was

increased on the Castel Gandolfo farm when the committee arranged to have some of the new White American breed, originated by Ellery Metcalf, a Massachusetts poultryman, shipped to the Vatican farms two years ago. In the meantime this new strain of poultry has proved to be highly satisfactory for meat and egg production, enabling the Holy Father to send more food to the orphans and the aged.



GOOD EXAMPLE OF ST. ISIDORE

When Father Lovasick, S.V.D., was preparing catechism stories to be used in religious instruction for children, he used the story of St. Isidore, the Spanish Plowman, as an inspiring example of faithfulness in attending Mass. We never know when someone is watching what we are doing, and pointing us out as a good example. . . . Or, if we have not been doing the right thing . . . as a bad example.

INTENTIONS

We receive many letters of petition, but not quite so many of thanksgiving. That is to be expected, because some people forget to say "thank you" even when they are in the presence of a generous benefactor. It stands to reason, then, that people will neglect to say "thank you" to God, or to their patron saint or guardian angel, since they may not be aware that they are always in the presence of God.

FARMERS OF FAITH

People on American farms with strong faith in prayer send us petitions which are placed close to the relics of St. Isidore. These include requests that they may be able to check the disease which is spreading among their hogs, cows, or chickens----- that they may be able to find pasture so that they will not have to sell their cattle too early ----- cr "that the fall wheat crop will

not freeze or dry out." Problems such as these are typical of the requests which arrive here regularly. It shows that good sensible people do not forget that God created the world, giving us the earth, plants, and animals, for our food and for our enjoyment.

A GRATEFUL FARMER FROM INDIA

We recently had a letter from a priest in India, who told about a farmer expressing his thanks. This honest laboring man wrote his thanks on a piece of paper, in his native dialect, which was translated as follows: "I offer thanksgiving for my successful transplanting. Since we began, neither my family nor my oxen have been sick. I was very anxious because my fields were in a very wild and thorny place, but God's blessing kept us healthy during this busy season. I am sorry that my two milk cows died during the season, but I do not worry about it. It must have been the will of God, and I know that if I do not complain over my loss, He will see that I will have better success later on, as a reward of my work and my prayers. Some kind friends helped me to finish my transplanting. Now, I am very thankful to my friends, my patron saint, and to God for all the help which I have received."

from friends

ARKANSAS

Our family is very devoted to St. Isidore, so we are enclosing an offering in thanks for the favors obtained for us by St. Isidore this year on all of our crops down on our farm near Lake Chicot.

CALIFORNIA

Enclosed please find an offering for St. Isidore's Shrine to thank him for a favor which I received down here in the vineyards of sunny California. I am a


wine maker and oftentimes imagine that St. Isidore must have cultivated grape vines on his employer's farm in Spain.

ILLINOIS

I am sending in a small gift with my petition. Our family is very grateful, since we have not had any outstanding losses from drouth, bad weather, live-stock diseases, crop insects, or any of the many things that have been bothering some of the other farmers. We are faced with the problem at the present time, since we are renting 160 acres from my husband's aunt, who is on her death bed with cancer. We are praying that we may be allowed to continue farming on this farm if it is the will of God, or that we may find a farm somewhere else if that is His holy will. It would be difficult to find a farm which is as suitable to our plans as this one, on which we are raising our family. Your prayers are very much appreciated.

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Please use this offering to be evenly divided as an offering for Holy Mass and a novena gift for the work of the Shrine, in thanksgiving for a favor granted.



We certainly want to be in the number of those who are making the novena, since we have great confidence in St. Isidore. There has been a very large statue of this saint in a prominent place in our church. It has been there continually through the years, longer than the oldest parishioner can remember. We say here that St. Isidore never lets the farmers down.

INDIANA

The prayers to St. Isidore always help us. Thank you for what you do to help the farmers. My parents have been on this farm for 53 years, since my mother came here as a bride. My father is now

80 years old and still works on the farm, although my brother helps him with the heavy work. We say that St. Isidore helps out whenever we have big problems to face. I am sending in the name of another neighboring farmer, who should be interested in knowing more about St. Isidore.

IOWA

From a farm in Clinton County, the prime beef center of the world, we are writing to the National Shrine of St. Isidore, as we begin to say the prayers for the next 30 days. We have a big investment in cattle, and a family of seven children, all of whom are under 14 years of age. Our crop was very good, and we have been blessed in many ways. We are hoping that St. Isidore, who saw the snow white oxen plowing in his master's field, will keep an eye on our cattle so that they will finish off nicely in the feed lot, and bring us top prices. When we get the check, we will not forget our friends, including St. Isidore.

INDIANA

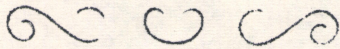
Now that it is winter time, we farmers have many odd jobs to do, and can sit back to think over our successes and failures. I have just been thinking over the many favors which I believe came to me because of the prayers in which I asked St. Isidore to call God's blessings down upon my crops. I have a nice fat balance in my checkbook, so I am cutting down on it a little by sending you this offering.

KANSAS

A friend of mine has just given me your address, and suggested that I tell you that I have prayed to St. Isidore for a long time. I own a farm in Ness County and constantly pray for the success of the tenants who are working the place. My prayers have always been answered.

LOUISIANA

Since two years ago I have been praying to St. Isidore, and want you to tell people that I have a new truck, new car, and a new tractor. Some people remark that I am lucky, but I know that it is St. Isidore who has been helping me. I am a farmer and a fisherman, and for the past six months I have promised that for every \$100 that I will make fishing I will have a Mass said in honor of St. Isidore. I am very grateful for having learned of this good saint through the novena material and St. Isidore's Plow which comes from your National Shrine. I want you to use this small gift for the work of letting more farmers know who their patron saint is.



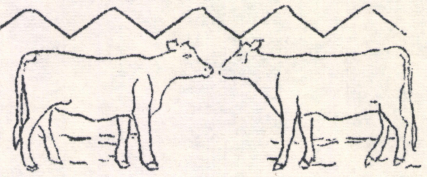
Enclosed please find this message of thanksgiving in honor of St. Isidore. There was much sickness among our chickens and hogs, but we have saved many compared to our neighbors, some of whom lost all their chickens and all of their hogs. I want to thank God through St. Isidore for these favors, and also for the success of saving our crops in very fine weather. Our crop was not as good as last year, but considering the weather conditions, it was much better than we expected to have. I have been attending Mass regularly in my parish church in thanksgiving for the blessings received. Our folks have had very strong Catholic faith since the time of our Acadian forefathers who came down here to the land of Evangeline.

MICHIGAN

I am very hopeful (if you publish this letter and need to use a name, just call me "Hopeful" because of the personal nature of the favor received). I would be glad to have you publish it, if you think it will help any other wife and mother to gain courage. I sent a petition to your shrine, asking St. Isidore to help in bringing back my husband home to me and my son. Within two

weeks he was home, when things seemed hopeless. He is very anxious to get work on some one of the neighboring farms, so that we can continue to live here in southeastern Michigan.

I promised to send this gift if our prayers for our flocks and fields



were answered, in reply to our petition which we went to you a short time ago. Since then our cattle seem to be clearing up from the disease which was affecting them. We now have three more nice heifer calves in the barn.

MINNESOTA

Please accept this offering for the Shrine of St. Isidore. My husband and I agreed that we had a good corn crop, and that we would send this amount. We have also had our pastor say a Mass in thanksgiving in our parish church.

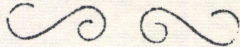
I want to thank St. Isidore for bringing us so many blessings. I prayed to him throughout the summer storm season that we would not have any bad storms. There were many storms all around us, but my thanks must go publicly to St. Isidore, since we have not had a bad storm which did any damage to our farm or buildings. I shall continue praying to him, and also letting other people know how powerful he is in helping farmers.

Here is a note of thanks from the shore of Lake Pepin, which I promised to have published. Ever since you sent me the literature about St. Isidore, I have been praying to him every day. When one of our favorite cows became sick, I just kept saying those prayers, and promised St. Isidore that I would publish the favor, if he would make the cow well. Within two weeks she was back to normal, although at first it seemed hopeless.

that she would recover. We are certainly very grateful, as we are in no position to stand any financial losses. Some day we may be able to send a large token of our appreciation, to help you tell other farmers about St. Isidore.

MISSOURI

I am most grateful to St. Isidore. When we go out on trips we always ask St. Isidore to take care of the barn and the stock while we are away. He does very well "in keeping barn" for us.



We enjoy having the picture of St. Isidore in our barn and home down here in the rolling hill country. I am sure that other farmers would be glad to have that picture if they only knew about it. So I am sending you the price of a few postage stamps so that you can send out more information about the farmers' patron saint.

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When it was very dry and we had no water for our livestock, I sent a petition to the National Shrine of St. Isidore, asking for rain, and in five days we had plenty of rain for our crops, and all the water our livestock needed. Many, many thanks for it.

MONTANA

I am enclosing a Christmas gift in honor of the Infant Jesus, and in thanksgiving for the blessings I have received through the intercession of St. Isidore. I continue to include in my prayers, through the intercession of St. Isidore, that God may bless our country, so that all our fellow citizens may have a true love of God and neighbor, and that the peace of Christ may come to all men of good will.

NEBRASKA

I made a secret promise to St. Isidore, that if our crops were good last summer, I would make an offering in his honor.

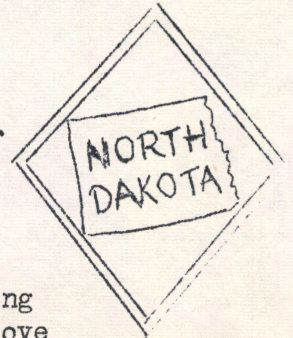
Now it is time that I make this secret promise public, by sending the offering which I volunteered to give. I have been looking forward to making the novena on the occasion of his feast day, March 22.

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Here is our note of thanksgiving to St. Isidore, for the good luck that we had with our alfalfa and corn. We keep on asking St. Isidore the Farmer to pray frequently for our son, who has gone from our farm to see what he can do in another part of the Lord's vineyard, by becoming a missionary priest.

NORTH DAKOTA

I must drop a few lines to thank God for all the good things, including the good crop which we had, after praying to St. Isidore. We are sending along some money to prove that we are really thankful. We could not send any more, because we have just bought this farm up in the wheat country of North Dakota, where we are very happy and thankful to God for all the blessings we have been getting.



OHIO

At Christmas time I have been sending out a few donations to people who have been kind to me during the year, so I certainly must not forget St. Isidore, who has helped me very much on my Maumee Valley farm. I bought a picture of him for my house, and after the holiday season, will buy another picture to put out in the barn.

PENNSYLVANIA

I must write to tell you how St. Isidore helped us. The last time I wrote to you I told you that my farm was up for sale for taxes. I had no idea that I would ever be able to raise all that

money which I needed. But, through the prayers of St. Isidore, my married son, who usually has hardly enough for his own family, was able to save enough to pay the taxes on our farm. My husband is back in the hospital, where the doctors say that it surely must be prayers which are keeping him alive. I told the doctors how I have prayed and prayed to St. Isidore for his recovery, since St. Isidore was also a farmer. So you can see, Father Dunn, the prayers to St. Isidore do pay off in this family. When things are tough here on the farm, we put our trust in God and ask St. Isidore to help us in getting the things we need.

TEXAS

Here is a tiny widow's mite. I have been away on my vacation, so I am a little bit late in sending this in time for the novena. I was very happy with my farmer husband, and do believe that he is with that other farmer in heaven, St. Isidore. I am now praying for a good Catholic farmer so that I may once again be a farm wife.

When a Texan makes a promise, the promise is always kept. I promised St. Isidore a reward for the favor he granted me. Will you please see that this is used in some manner to give greater honor to him?

I enclose a little offering that I had promised to San Isidro. We wanted rain to come, and prayed to St. Isidore to get it for us. It rained just when we needed it very badly. We hope that he will get us some more rain soon.

ALBERTA, CANADA

I am sending along a Canadian dollar to buy that good American picture of St. Isidore, which I wish very much to send to my son, who has had some hard luck on his farm. He lost all of his crop from hail, and had some trouble with his cattle business. I told him that, next to the poor souls and our Mother

Mary and St. Joseph, then St. Isidore comes as a help to the hard working farmers. That is why I want to send him the picture of St. Isidore, who has helped me several times. Hail is very bad in this country, destroying many crops. But whenever hail started around our farm, I just say a Hail Mary devoutly, in honor of St. Isidore, and he has always protected my crops.

WISCONSIN



WISCONSIN

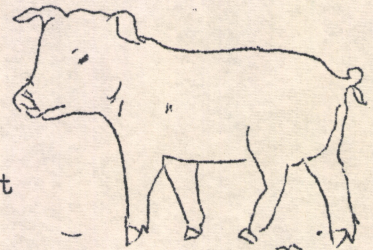
I am sending along a check of \$1.50 for a booklet containing the St. Isidore Mass and prayers, and also five leaflets with the picture and prayer of St. Isidore, for ourselves and the children. The dollar and five cents are for a

special donation to your Shrine in the name of our family. We pray to St. Isidore very frequently, and are very thankful for the good crops we had this year.

We had good luck with our herds and crops, and also cutting wood out in our woodlot. It looks as if the trees are growing better since we have been asking St. Isidore to take care of all of our property.

I promised to send this dollar bill to St. Isidore a few months ago, but I lost your address.

I made up my mind that I would hang on to this new dollar bill until I found your address, so here it is. The saint has been very good to me. I have a small pig which was orphaned, and I fed it on a bottle until it could eat alone. When it was four months old, I had a chance to sell it and hoped for maybe \$20. But I was very much surprised when I received \$36 for the pig, as it weighed more than I had thought. Since I had been praying to St. Isidore while I was taking care of the poor little orphaned pig, I should share some of that extra money with him.



NATIONAL SHRINE OF SAINT ISIDORE
3801 Grand Avenue
Des Moines 12, Iowa

Prayer for Intercession of St. Isidore

O, God, who didst teach Adam the simple art of tilling the soil, and Who through Jesus Christ, the true vine, didst reveal Thyself the husbandman of our souls, deign, we pray, through the merits of Blessed Isidore, to instill into our hearts a horror of sin and a love of prayer, so that, working the soil in the sweat of our brow, we may, with Christ our Lord, enjoy eternal happiness in Heaven. Through Christ our Lord Amen.

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Marian Year Prayer
By His Holiness, Pope Pius XII

Enraptured by the splendor of your heavenly beauty and impelled by the anxieties of the world, we cast ourselves into your arms, O Immaculate Mother of Jesus and our mother Mary, confident of finding in your most loving heart appeasement of our ardent desires and a safe harbor from the tempests which beset us on every side.

Though degraded by our faults and overwhelmed by infinite misery, we admire and praise the peerless richness of the sublime gifts with which God has filled You above every other mere creature from the first moment of your conception until the day whereon, after your Assumption into heaven, He crowned you Queen of the Universe.

O Crystal Fountain of Faith, bathe our minds with the eternal truths!

O Fragrant Lily of all Holiness, captivate our hearts with your heavenly perfume!

O Conquerer of evil and death, inspire in us a deep horror of sin which makes the soul detestable to God and a slave of hell!

O well, beloved of God, hear the ardent cry which rises from every heart in this year dedicated to you.

Bend tenderly over our aching wounds. Convert the wicked, dry the tears of the afflicted and oppressed, comfort the poor and humble, quench hatreds, sweeten harshness, safeguard the flower of purity in youth, protect the holy Church, make all men feel the attraction of Christian goodness.

(Marian Year Prayer cont'd)

In your name, resounding harmoniously in heaven, may they recognize that they are brothers and that the nations are members of one family, whereupon may there shine forth the sun of a universal and sincere peace.

Receive, O sweet mother, our humble supplications and, above all, obtain for us that one day, happy with you, we may repeat before your throne the hymn that today is sung on earth around your altars.

You are all beautiful, O Mary. You are the glory, you are the joy, you are the honor of our people! Amen.

Immaculate Queen of Peace, pray for us!
Our Lady of the Fields, pray for us!
St. Isidore, pray for us!

Prayer of the Christian Farmer

O God, Source and Giver of all things, Who dost manifest Thy infinite majesty, power and goodness in the earth about us, we give Thee honor and glory.

For the sun and the rain, for the manifold fruits of our fields, for the increase of our herds and flocks, we thank Thee. For the enrichment of our souls with divine grace, we are grateful.

Supreme Lord of the harvest, graciously accept us and the fruits of our toil, in union with Christ, Thy Son, as atonement for our sins, for the growth of Thy Church, for peace and charity in our homes, for salvation to all. Amen.

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Prayer for Rain

O God, in Whom we live, move and have our being, grant us seasonable rain, that, our temporal needs being sufficiently provided for, we may seek with greater confidence after things eternal. Grant us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, beneficial rain, and deign to moisten with showers from Heaven the parched face of the earth, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

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Prayer of Thanksgiving to God

We give Thee thanks, Almighty God, for all Thy blessings, Who livest and reignest for ever and ever. Amen.

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Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father (5 times).